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Middle East & North Africa

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YAR, PDRY TO RECEIVE ARAB FACTFINDING COMMISSION

NC181442Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1413 GMT 18 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 18 July--Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad announced today that the Arab League General Secretariat's contacts with the governments of San'a' and Aden have so far resulted in the two governments agreeing in principle to receive an Arab commission to verify the facts on the borders between the two countries.

MENA has learned that the proposed commission members will be from the Arab League General Secretariat and the league's Military Secretariat.

It has also been learned that in addition to its factfinding task regarding the charges and countercharges by the two countries about military concentrations on the border between them, the commission will also conduct a political dialog between the two governments to eliminate the tension between them.

Meanwhile, the Arab League today received a new note from the YAR, reaffirming that it will welcome an Arab factfinding commission and denying Aden's claims about YAR military concentrations on its borders with the PDRY.

The PDRY has also sent a memorandum to the Arab League, saying it will receive a factfinding commission with members from a number of Arab League states. In its memorandum the PDRY requests that the Arab League council's recent decision to freeze relations with it be reconsidered.

'ARAFAT HOLDS TALKS WITH DR WALDHEIM IN DAMASCUS

JN181727Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1700 GMT 18 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, met in Damascus yesterday evening with Dr Waldheim, UN secretary general. During the meeting, they discussed a number of topics, including the situation in southern Lebanon and developments in the Palestinian cause on the local and international levels. The topics of UNRWA--the services it offers to the Palestinian refugees and the measures it recently adopted to curtail its services--and Israeli piracy in international waters were also discussed.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad Zuhdi an-Nashashibi, secretary of the PLO Executive Committee; 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, official spokesman of the PLO Executive Committee; and Khalid al-Hasan, alias Abu as-Sa'id, member of the Fatah Central Committee.

Kuwait AS-SIYASAH Report

NC190856Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0830 GMT 19 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 19 July--The Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH today reports that during their meeting in Damascus the day before yesterday UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim conveyed to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat a message from the United States affirming that a Palestinian state is forthcoming regardless of the diverse and contradictory statements released in the United States or made by other parties concerned in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

PCC BEGINS MEETINGS IN DAMASCUS; 'ARAFAT ATTENDS

JN181945Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--The Palestine Central Council [PCC] began its meetings this evening under Khalid al-Fahum, president of the Palestine National Council [PNC] and attended by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

Al-Fahum stated that the PCC will discuss several issues, primarily Palestinian national unity and political developments, particularly the recent contacts between As-Sadat's regime and the Zionist entity. Al-Fahum added that the council will also discuss the Palestinian situation in the Arab arena and what is happening in Lebanon, as well as fix the date and venue for the convocation of the PNC.

'ARAFAT THANKS GDR FOR AID SHIPMENT TO PALESTINIANS

JN141705Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 14 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar yesterday received Comrade Achim Reichardt, GDR ambassador in Beirut. Brother Abu 'Ammar asked the GDR ambassador to convey his greetings to Comrade Erich Honecker, chairman of the Council of State and general secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, and to the friendly GDR people as well as his thanks for the aid shipment which reached the Palestinian Red Crescent last Monday.

The ambassador affirmed to brother Abu 'Ammar the GDR's full support for the PLO.

During this meeting, the two sides discussed the latest developments in Lebanon and the Middle East situation in general.

PALESTINIAN, CZECHOSLOVAK NEWS AGENCIES MAKE AGREEMENT

JN141957Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1800 GMT 14 Jul 78 JN

[Text] The Palestinian news agency, WAFA, and the Czechoslovak news agency, CTK, reached an agreement in Prague the day before yesterday on cooperation in exchanging news reports and wirephotos. The agreement stipulates that WAFA and CTK will, to the best of their abilities, provide assistance to each other's permanent representatives in both Prague and Beirut.

SAUDI ARABIA

SAUDI-U.S. PLAN TO REDUCE SYRIAN PRESENCE DENIED

LD182155Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1905 GMT 18 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh--A responsible official has denied the report carried by some news agencies about cooperation between the kingdom and the United States to discuss a plan for reducing the Syrian presence in the Arab Deterrent Forces in favor of other Arab and foreign forces. The source said the report was unfounded.

MAURITANIAN DELEGATION ARRIVES IN JIDDA

LD182208Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Jidda--A Mauritanian delegation consisting of Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Ahmed Louly, minister of control and investigations, and the minister of justice and religious affairs arrived in Jidda this evening. Louly said that he had brought a message from Lt Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck, chairman of the Military Committee for National Recovery and head of government, for King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz relating to Mauritania's support for the strengthening and development of relations between the two sister countries. The delegation was welcomed at the airport by the Foreign Ministry's protocol chief, a Royal Court official and the Mauritanian ambassador.

PROSPECTS FOR U.K. MIDDLE EAST PEACE TALKS CONSIDERED POOR

LD180920Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0655 GMT 18 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh--AR-RIYADH writes that the tripartite London conference, opening today to discuss the Middle East issue, will not achieve anything as long as both basic parties to the conference each reject the other's proposals. Moreover, past contacts and meetings between the two sides have not brought attitudes on the Palestinian issue, which is the major issue in the dispute, closer together.

On this basis, the paper writes, the convening of the London conference, and the discussions between the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel and the United States, which will take place without an advance agenda, will be futile because this offers Israel the opportunity to waste time and to place previous efforts, which have exposed the intransigent Israeli stance to world public opinion, in a state of flux.

The paper stresses that all efforts to establish peace in the Middle East will break up in the face of Israel's hardened posture and its insistence on its past attitudes which have called for holding on to both territories and peace, regardless of the rights of the Palestinian people and their return to their homeland.

MINISTER COMMENTS ON PROTECTION OF OIL REGIONS, SECURITY

LD181505Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1112 GMT 18 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Kuwait--His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of the interior, has stressed that protection of the oil regions in the gulf countries is a totally national matter and the responsibility of the gulf. His royal highness said: The gulf countries are fully concerned with this matter and will spare no effort to achieve cooperation and coordination in protecting the oil regions. They have taken precautions to protect their countries and national interests.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH published today, his royal highness stressed that the kingdom's stance on the security of the gulf is to absolutely back and support any protective measure adopted by the fraternal countries of the gulf in defending their legitimate interests. His royal highness said: Coordination among us is lasting and is developing in all security and other matters which concern all of us. The security of the gulf is on the minds of all of us.

Regarding the joint efforts of the gulf to reach a joint formula for cooperation among the countries of the region, His Royal Highness Prince Nayif said: The gulf countries are interested in achieving security and stability for their people, and hardly any time will elapse before joint security projects to achieve the aims and the aspirations of the sons of the region are implemented.

His royal highness described Saudi-Kuwaiti relations in security and other matters as too deep to be defined by written agreements, and this is the case on various levels with the rest of the fraternal gulf countries.

YEMEN--PDRY

UPONF SECRETARY GENERAL HAILS PDRY-USSR FRIENDSHIP

LD181848Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Jul 78 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the United Political Organization-National Front [UPONF] Central Committee, today received Soviet and Czechoslovak television crews and told them about developments in Yemen, highlighting many points in the process.

Brother Isma'il referred to the stages of the fight against various leftist and rightist, opportunist currents since independence and said: Our fight against the leftist, opportunist current was the most dangerous of all, because the leftist, opportunist current was capable of constantly changing its color. He said that recent events in our country had exposed the threats of opportunist leftism but that it had been routed by virtue of the masses of our people rallying around their vanguard leadership, the UPONF, their vigilance and by the consciousness of our military establishments. He said that after the defeat of this current, new horizons had opened for the achievement of the four principal tasks, headed by the establishment of the new Vanguard Party.

Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il said: The propaganda launched by imperialist and reactionary circles against Democratic Yemen is a broken record revealing the hostility of imperialism and reaction to our revolution and people in Democratic Yemen. He said: In spite of what is being said, we are part of the Arab and world liberation movement and are proud of our firm and developing relations with the socialist countries, headed by the USSR. He said: These campaigns are intended to obfuscate the fact that troops are being assembled around us to create more centers of tension.

Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il referred to the decisions of the Arab League against Democratic Yemen and said these had been devised by reactionary and imperialist forces. However, he affirmed that the steadfastness and confrontation front and all the revolutionary forces in the world stood on our side.

Brother Isma'il affirmed that preparations would continue to establish the new Vanguard Party. He said that this activity was forging ahead normally and in an improved context.

Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il hailed the strong friendship linking Democratic Yemen and the USSR.

PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD APPOINTS TWO NEW GOVERNORS

LD181738Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Jul 78 LD/EA

[Summary] PDRY Chairman and Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad today issued two republican decrees appointing 'Ali Shayi Hadi as governor of the Fourth Governorate and Salih Awad Sinan as governor of the Sixth Governorate.

EGYPTIAN MAGAZINE REPORTS PLANNED OUSTER OF ISMA'IL

NC190840Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 19 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 19 July--In its weekly edition published today, the magazine AKHIR SA'AH reports that well-informed sources in Aden affirm that the ruling national front organization in South Yemen intends to get rid of and overthrow 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the organization.

The magazine says that this action is being supported by the Soviet Union in order to eliminate the prevailing wave of indignation and rage against the communist regime in Aden.

The magazine adds that 'Ali Barib, secretary of the Yemeni Communist Party, heads the list of possible successors to Abd al-Fattah Isma'il. 'Ali Barib recently visited Moscow and was appointed to the General Command of the organization after the execution of Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali. There has been complete understanding between him and 'Ali Nasir, chairman of the new Presidential Council, over the pro-Moscow policy.

It is known that the national front is being reorganized with the help of ideological experts from Bulgaria and the USSR preparatory to the proclamation of the Vanguard Communist Party.

SOUTH YEMEN FREEDOM RADIO COMMENTS ON PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

JN181547Y South Yemen Freedom Radio [Clandestine] in Arabic to South Yemen 1130 GMT 18 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Our brothers in Yemen, in the north and the south; sons of conquerers: Our people in both Yemens listened yesterday to the People's Constituent Assembly's announcement in the name of the Yemeni people that Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih had been elected president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces. Our people also heard, with great appreciation and admiration, the speech of Al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, chairman of the People's Constituent Assembly, describing the decision of the assembly as being full of courage and belief in democracy, openness and freedom.

Today, and from this free voice, we reconfirm that we stand with our brothers in the north, walking in one line and under the same flag to liberate our country from the scum of communism and its brutal intrigues which seek the (?destruction) of Yemen, the homeland and the people.

Our brothers in North and South Yemen, the swords of your grandfathers were raised over all countries they conquered, and the flags of your fathers were unfurled everywhere. Islam spread over their blood and bodies and they wrecked the fortresses of atheism wherever they were encountered. Today, you are facing in your own homeland, Yemen, a new Red colonialism. You are facing unjustice and slavery in your own country.

People of Yemen, the threat is jeopardizing you inside your lands. This threat is destroying schools over the heads of your children, damaging roads, blowing up houses with the residents inside and spreading intrigues and destruction throughout your country. Are you going to remain silent and yield to this danger? You are the courageous ones who must defend your integrity. Struggle you people of Yemen to remove the shame which has stained your homeland and violated your integrity! This is the voice of freedom from South Yemen.

YEMEN--YAR

PRESIDENT SALIH GIVES INAUGURAL ADDRESS

JN181415Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jul 78 JN

[Excerpts] Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, was sworn in this morning before the People's Constituent Assembly at a ceremony attended by the prime minister, the deputy prime minister, the finance minister, the secretary general of the Higher Committee for Reform, ministers, under secretaries, officials, armed forces and security officers and members of the Arab and diplomatic foreign corps.

President Salih made an important national speech amid cheers. Following is a recording of the speech:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Prayers and peace on God's prophets and companions.

Brother chairman and members of the People's Constituent Assembly; brother sons of the Yemeni people at home and abroad: I greet you with the greetings of the revolution and the republic--the greetings of freedom and democracy. I am happy to talk to you today and I speak with an open heart. I have great confidence in God and in your support. I am full of faith in God. Predicaments and ordeals, regardless of how harsh they may be, can only enhance the firmness and strength of this country and people. [applause] I extend my thanks and appreciation to the brother chairman and members of the People's Constituent Assembly for the confidence they have placed on me as I begin to shoulder this great responsibility and the heavy burden of leading our dear country, as president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, [applause] in one of the most critical phases our noble Yemeni people have ever passed through.

Brothers, I am honored to stand before you today in the same place where my brother, the great martyr Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, pledged to God to serve this homeland and its citizens. He was martyred while fulfilling his duties and responsibilities. I pledge to God and our great Yemeni people that I will shoulder this heavy burden which you have entrusted to me with all sincerity and honesty and that I will exert all my efforts and capabilities to preserve the principles and goals of the glorious 26 September revolution, [applause] the aspirations of the blessed 13 July movement and all the national gains of our people.

I stress to our masses our determination to continue the comprehensive development plan within the framework of freedom and democracy and to cherish and support their cooperation in the corrective process in order to build a modern central state--a state of order and one concerned for the expatriates of our people everywhere--and to exert further efforts to develop our armed forces and security forces. [Words indistinct] in order to build Yemen and to insure happiness, security and the sovereignty of our people. [applause] [Words indistinct] between one citizen and another except conduct and practice. I will do my utmost to prevent Yemen from becoming bogged down in enemy plots. I will not relinquish any of the rights of our people.

Brothers, I stress to you in the name of your brothers in the armed forces and security forces and on behalf of all the sons of our people that we will hit hard and cruelly anyone who tries to harm our sovereignty and independence or our security and stability. [applause]

We firmly and deeply belive in the unity of our Yemeni people. We will not hesitate to exert every effort to achieve this patriotic aspiration, no matter what acts of terrorism and meanness the authorities dominating our people in the southern part of the homeland may employ. The people stand immortal and above all individuals.

Brothers, regarding our foreign policy, I will pursue the same course which the late president, Lt Col Ahmad al-Ghashmi, pursued. [applause] I will act to develop relations between our country and our brothers and friends in a manner that will serve our interests and our mutual interests. We support the just cause of the Palestinian people with all our might and in all circumstances. Furthermore, we support the causes of liberation, justice, right and peace, proceeding from our commitments to the charters of the Arab League and the United Nations.

Brothers, finally, I pledge to God and our people and the innocent martyrs who gave their chaste souls for the homeland, foremost of whom is the late president, Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, [words indistinct].

PREMIER SUBMITS GOVERNMENT'S RESIGNATION TO NEW PRESIDENT

JN181338Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Brother Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, has received the following letter from brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani:

Brother Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces: May God preserve you. Sincere fraternal greetings.

It honors me and the members of my government to congratulate you on the great confidence placed in you by the Constituent People's Assembly, the symbol of our democracy and national unity, when it elected you by an overwhelming majority to this important post at this delicate stage.

In accordance with our constitutional requirements, please accept my cabinet's resignation. While tendering our resignation, we confirm our solidarity with you and our support for all measures and policies to be pursued by the state under your leadership and on the basis of the principles of the 26 September [revolution] and the 13 July movement. May God guide your steps on the road to good and victory.

[Signed] Your Brother, 'Abd al-Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, San'a', 18 July 1978.

PRESIDENT ASKS CABINET TO REMAIN IN OFFICE

JN181348Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jul 78 JN

[Text] The president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces has replied with the following letter:

Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani: Greetings from the revolution and the republic.

With great appreciation I have received your letter of 18 July 1978, which included the resignation of your government. In light of the stage through which the homeland is passing and the consequent requirements for solidarity and coherence among our great people, and in view of your sincerity and dedication to the service of your homeland and citizens, I have decided to grant you and the cabinet members the necessary authority to continue your lofty work for the welfare of the homeland and its citizens. I affirm to you my confidence, support and concern for the continuation of the movement toward progress, stability, security and development in our country. May God guide us all for the welfare of the people and the homeland.

[Signed] Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, San'a', 18 July 1978.

The SABA' NEWS AGENCY correspondent has learned that the prime minister and ministers will take the constitutional oath before brother Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, at the Republican Palace at 1000 tomorrow.

PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL REPORTEDLY TO BE EXPANDED

NC190855Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0732 GMT 19 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 19 July--In its weekly edition published today, the magazine AKHIR SA'AH reports that the new Presidential Council in the YAR will be expanded to include four members, namely Al-Qadi al-'Arashi, chairman; 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister; Lt Col 'Ali ash-Shibah, commander in chief; and Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, deputy commander in chief and chief of staff.

The magazine says that the Constituent People's Assembly will be expanded to include all national groups and tribes. Contacts are underway for a national reconciliation and for consolidating the domestic front to confront any potential threats from Aden and the Soviet experts there.

GOVERNMENT RECEIVES REASSURANCES FROM PLO

JN181802Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jul 78 JN

[Text] A responsible Foreign Ministry spokesman has made the following statement to the SABA' NEWS AGENCY:

The Foreign Ministry has received a convincing explanation from the PLO regarding certain statements made by some Palestinian leaderships as not necessarily expressing the official viewpoint of the PLO. In view of this, the YAR expresses its satisfaction with the assurances received in this respect and reaffirms its unlimited support for the Palestinian struggle represented by the PLO.

EGYPTIAN, ISRAELI SIDES FAR APART IN UK TALKS

NC181649Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 18 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Leeds Castle, Kent, 18 July--Hamdi Nada, the official spokesman of the Egyptian delegation to the tripartite conference, has stated that the gap between the two sides is still wide. He added: We are waiting for a positive response by Israel to our proposals and initiative. It will be decided, in light of the Israeli reply, whether we will continue the contacts.

Anatoli Levi, the official spokesman of the Israeli delegation, admitted that the gap between the two sides is still wide and that attempts are being made to bridge it.

Hodding Carter, the official spokesman of the U.S. delegation, said that the first session in the tripartite meetings lasted 3 and 1/2 hours, with a 10-minute break for coffee.

The meeting began with a short speech by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. This was followed by a review and an explanation of the subjects under discussion. There were questions and answers on the proposals which the Egyptian and Israeli sides submitted. Each side answered the queries and questions raised by the other side. The U.S. secretary of state himself participated in submitting questions and queries to both sides.

Hodding Carter said at the press conference which the three official spokesmen held after the first session that the discussions would be resumed in the afternoon and that Cyrus Vance would resume his bilateral contacts in the evening with Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan.

Vance began these contacts after his arrival yesterday. He met for 1 and 1/2 hours with Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and then had a meeting with Dayan. These meetings were resumed this morning before the first session of the discussions.

The Egyptian and Israeli spokesmen were asked if the Leeds Castle meetings are considered a resumption of the direct Egyptian-Israeli negotiations which were suspended last January.

Hamdi Nada, the official spokesman of the Egyptian delegation, said: We came here at the invitation of the U.S. Government to determine whether there is an opportunity to establish a suitable ground on which to resume the negotiations. When we see positive elements in the Israeli position, the discussions, which have been suspended, will be resumed.

Answering the same question, the Israeli spokesman said: We consider today's discussions as a resumption of the direct negotiations.

Hodding Carter described today's session as serious and said it was characterized by the atmosphere of the working meetings.

The Israeli official spokesman said: We were invited and we have come to this conference. We are happy with it and with the direct negotiations which we held for 3 and 1/2 hours. He added that the Israeli side has not submitted new proposals but that it clarified its position, explained its proposals and answered the questions raised by the Egyptian side. He said that the Egyptian proposals were submitted in a clever and skillful manner.

Asked whether the meeting was able to narrow the gap between the Egyptians and Israeli proposals, Hodding Carter said: Today's meeting was an attempt to establish contact between the two sides, narrow the gap in the points of disagreement and answer the questions and queries submitted by the two sides.

The Egyptian official spokesman was then asked if the Egyptian delegation will continue with the Leeds Castle meetings. He confirmed that the delegation will continue with these meetings, which are scheduled to last 2 days.

Vance Offers Encouragement

NC181741Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1704 GMT 18 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Leeds Castle, Kent, 18 July--U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has asserted that the peace issue in the Middle East is passing through a very delicate stage and that the tripartite conference can play a role in overcoming the difficulties. He called for earnest discussions which would deal with the points of agreement and would narrow the differences.

He said this in a speech this morning opening the work of the conference. He expressed hope that these meetings will give the peace process new momentum. He also called for entering into a direct discussion of the Egyptian and Israeli proposals.

Egyptian Proposals Discussed

NC182215Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2038 GMT 18 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Leeds Castle, Kent, 18 July--MENA has learned that the discussions at the conference today centered on the Egyptian plan and proposals pertaining to the Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza sector and on the security arrangements.

At the evening session the discussion of all the points included in the Egyptian plan was resumed in the form of questions and clarifications. Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil answered the questions.

An informed source said that the discussions took place in an atmosphere of frankness and that they were held in depth. The questions and clarifications dealt in particular with the Israeli withdrawal, the future of the West Bank and Gaza sector, security arrangements and the right of the Palestinians to self-determination.

Cyrus Vance, the U.S. secretary of state and the coordinator general of the meeting, continued his clarifications and interventions during this evening's discussions of the Egyptian proposals. He submitted a number of questions to both the Egyptian and Israeli sides, seeking more clarifications about some points in the proposals.

The evening session began this afternoon and lasted 2 hours, after which each delegation met separately. U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will meet separately tonight with Muhammad Israhim Kamil and with Moshe Dayan. The arrangements for tomorrow's meeting will be decided during the bilateral meetings.

Egyptian Official Comments

NC182144Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 18 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Leeds Castle, Kent, 18 July--Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and member of the Egyptian delegation to the tripartite conference, has stated that Egypt very sincerely desires a comprehensive peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis which would achieve justice and security for all sides and lead to the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories and to the establishment of the national rights of the Palestinian people.

In a statement to MENA, Dr al-Baz said that Egypt is dealing with the situation, within the framework of these principles, with an open mind and full flexibility. He added that peace cannot be achieved in the area at the expense of land or sovereignty, and that Egypt believes that just peace is inevitable.

KAMIL TO HOLD TALKS WITH DAVID OWEN, DEPART 21 JULY

NC181730Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1709 GMT 18 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Leeds Castle, Kent, 18 July-MENA has learned that Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and the delegation accompanying him will leave London for Cairo on Friday.

MENA has also learned that Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil will meet with British Foreign Secretary David Owen on Thursday afternoon or Friday morning, and that the final date of this meeting will be determined in light of the work of the tripartite conference.

MENA further learned that the talks between Kamil and David Owen will deal in particular with the situation in Africa and the latest Middle East developments in light of the current Leeds Castle discussions, the Vienna contacts, recent efforts and the EEC role and position. The talks will also broach bilateral relations between Egypt and Britain.

The British foreign secretary, "who is not playing a direct role in the tripartite meetings of the Egyptian, U.S. and Israeli foreign ministers," will hold separate meetings with each.

PRESIDENT AS-SADAT SPEAKS TO NEWSMEN IN KHARTOUM

NC181541Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpts] President Anwar as-Sadat arrived in Khartoum at 1300 today to attend the OAU summit conference, which begins this evening in Khartoum.

Answering a question by a Sudanese reporter about his visit to Sudan and the London conference, President as-Sadat said: [begin recording] I am happy to bring you here all the greetings and best wishes of your brothers in Egypt for success and prosperity under the leadership of our brother, my brother President Ja'far.

I do not know if you mean the London conference by your question. We noticed that the Israeli foreign minister held a press conference in Jerusalem when he embarked on his visit [to London] and he spoke again in London. He talked about another date or another future meeting. The Egyptian foreign minister has clear instructions to discuss the Egyptian plan, which you must have heard about.

If there is no response or if there is nothing new that could form a basis for discussion, then I do not believe that such a discussion will be of any use. I do not know whether the Israelis will withdraw or not. What I do know is that we have a specific plan for discussion. If there are no new elements or if no new elements appear, then there is no point in these discussions. [end recording]

Answering another question as to whether his meeting with the Israeli opposition leader meant loss of confidence in Begin, the president said: [begin recording] People imagine that my meeting with the opposition leader was an attempt on my part to divide the Israeli ranks. They used this theme before, when I was on a visit to the United States in February this year. I met with leaders of Jewish communities in the United States and Europe and they tried to kick up this kind of dust. This is undoubtedly a type of black propaganda, by which Begin wants to arouse the Israeli people.

I agreed to meet with the leader of the Israeli opposition because there was reason to discuss all matters. However, I have already said that it is not my aim to divide or anything of the sort, because as I said, my message, my initiative when I visited the Knesset and faced the Israeli people, was the peak of love. It was an act based on love, not hate or bitterness, which is regrettably in the hearts of many Israeli officials.

My meeting with opposition leader Peres did not have this aim at all. It was for the purpose of exploring the whole situation, especially since we had met in the same place, Salzburg, in February this year. [end recording]

INA: NPUG DENOUNCES INTERIOR MINISTRY'S DECISION

JN181540Y Baghdad INA in English 1530 GMT 18 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Cairo, 18 July--The Egyptian National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party has denounced the decision of the As-Sadat interior minister to ban the travel abroad of a number of the leaders of the party, describing it as illegal and a danger threatening every Egyptian citizen.

In a statement today the party said the decision was incompatible with the most simple rights guaranteed by the international bill of human rights.

SADDAM HUSAYN HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN BAGHDAD

JN181840Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 18 July--Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], has said that our fundamental strength lies in our people in Iraq and in the Arab nation. This came in a press conference he held at the national council this evening. The conference was attended by 150 journalists from all continents of the world, representing various newspapers, magazines, news agencies and world radio and television stations.

Saddam Husayn added: We are confident that our revolution, which has a humane and historical perspective in its outlook toward peoples' causes, will be understood by all. It will be understood by our traditional enemies in a manner that will increase (?their enmity), and by our friends in a way that will strengthen their friendship.

He affirmed that there has been no change in Iraq's internal external policy and said: Our policy derives from the principles and positions of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party as asserted by the 8th regional conference and the 11th national conference. He also stressed that Iraq rejects any pressure from any side brought to bear on the revolution in our country in order to change its independent course, which is based on our party's principles. He pointed out that the Progressive National and Nationalist Front adheres to its principles and that others have come to accept its course.

The RCC vice chairman then pointed out that autonomous rule was not something gained by the Kurds at the expense of our people, but was an Iraqi gain produced by linking an existing objective state with a mental generosity that is in harmony with the revolutionary course. He added: We shall work to develop the autonomous rule because it is an original expression of the Iraqi people's will and has not come as a result of temporary calculations.

BA'TH OFFICIAL MEETS VIETNAMESE, SRI LANKAN DELEGATIONS

JN151450Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 15 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 July--Dr Munif ar-Razzaz, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, met here today with the Vietnamese Communist Party delegation led by Vice Premier Huynh Tan Phat.

During the meeting, Dr ar-Razzaz praised the struggle of the two friendly parties--the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Vietnam Communist Party. He also praised their objectives in the struggle against imperialism, reaction and backwardness, and for building a developed socialist society. Dr ar-Razzaz further stated that the world progressive forces are well aware of the responsibility they are shouldering to support the Vietnamese people's struggle. He stressed Iraq's continued readiness to support this struggle.

Huynh Tan Phat praised Iraq's support for the Vietnamese people during the years of struggle and after they achieved victory. He stated that Iraq is considered among the first countries which contributed to the victory of the Vietnamese revolution.

Dr ar-Razzaz also met with Mrs Sirimave W.R.D. Bandaranaike, president of the Sri Lankan Freedom Party, and the delegation accompanying her.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed relations between the two parties and the scope of their development in the interests of the two friendly peoples and of the world liberation movement. Dr ar-Razzaz and Mrs Bandaranaike discussed the means to develop joint cooperation and the struggle against imperialism and reaction. Dr ar-Razzaz stressed the need to strengthen the nonalined movement and foil the plots aimed at weakening the movement's role of supporting the peoples' struggle.

FOREIGN DELEGATIONS DEPART FROM BAGHDAD

JN190847 [Editorial report JN] Baghdad INA in Arabic from 0730 GMT to 2015 GMT on 18 July carries a number of short, factual items reporting the departure from Baghdad of the following delegations after their participation in the Iraqi July revolution celebrations:

1. The Polish delegation led by Stanislaw Wronksi, member of the PZPR Central Committee;

2. The French delegation led by Michel d'Ornano, minister of environment and living conditions;

3. The Spanish delegation led by Admiral (Angel Liberal Lutini), deputy defense minister;

4. The Italian Communist Party [PCI] delegation led by (Emanuel Iscartie), member of the PCI Politburo;

5. The Italian delegation led by Luciano Radi, undersecretary of foreign affairs;

6. The Greek delegation led by Andreas Zaimis, deputy minister of foreign affairs;

7. The Sudanese delegation led by Dr Bashir 'Abbadi, member of the Political Bureau of the Sudanese Socialist Union and minister of industry;

8. The UAE delegation led by Rashid 'Abdallah an-Nu'aymi, minister of state for foreign affairs;

9. The Yugoslav delegation led by Vuko Dragasevic, minister of state for economic relations with developing countries;

10. The Eritrean delegation led by Ahmad Nasir, chairman of the Eritrean Liberation Front--Revolution Council;

11. The Omani delegation led by (Salim ibn Nasir al-Busa'idi), minister of communications [name, title as received];

12. The Bulgarian delegation led by Georgi Karamanev, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and minister of internal trade;

13. The PDRY delegation led by 'Ali 'Abd ar-Razzaq Ba Dhib, member of the Presidential Council and of the United Political Organization-National Front;

14. The Cuban delegation led by Pedro Miret Prieto, member of the Cuban Communist Party Politburo;

15. The Hungarian delegation led by Pal Racz, deputy minister of foreign affairs and member of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party Central Committee;

16. The Brazilian delegation led by Angelo Calmon de Sa, minister of industry and commerce:

17. The DPRK delegation led by Vice President Pak Song-chol.

OIL MINISTER MAKES STATEMENT ON USE OF OIL WEALTH

JN151130Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0935 GMT 15 Jul 78 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad 15 July--Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council member and oil minister, has affirmed that Iraq is considered to have the most diverse oil market in the world. He said that Iraq's oil marketing policy is based on the diversity of the parties and sides that buy its oil, for in this way it can avoid becoming committed to dealing with only one side, which is a precaution for emergencies and the future. He added that Iraq has marketing contracts with more than 50 oil purchasers.

This came in a statement Tayih 'Abd al-Karim made to ATH-THAWRAH newspaper published today. Tayih stressed that Iraq rejects middlemen in the marketing of oil and adheres firmly to OPEC prices and the decisions of the Arab Boycott Office, as well as those of other international organizations, with regard to boycotting racist regimes.

The oil minister said that foreign oil companies have greatly harmed Iraq with regard to the utilization of natural gas. These companies, he said, used to (?burn) this gas and refused to return it to the earth for storage. They also refused to develop production and benefit from it. He disclosed that these companies used to draw gas from natural reservoirs in order to harm Iraq and exhaust its gas reserves.

He then pointed out that several projects have been set up in various areas in Iraq in order to meet our increasing needs for natural gas. Among those projects are two which are considered the biggest in the history of the oil industry in Iraq. One project, which is tapping gas reserves in the north, will provide Iraq with about 400 million cubic feet of dehydrated gas per day. The other is the second stage of a project to develop gas production in the south, which will provide 830 million cubic feet of dehydrated gas per day. The two projects will be completed in 1982.

Tayih 'Abd al-Karim said that imperialist monopolies are trying to exploit Arab funds and the solar energy with which the Arab homeland is blessed. He said these monopolies are using underhanded methods to develop solar energy as an alternative energy source. He added that there are important developments and growth priorities in the Arab homeland, and Arab money should be spent according to these priorities. These, he said, do not include the exploitation of solar energy.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS AMNESTY TO PRISONERS

JN161751Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 16 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 July--The Revolution Command Council [RCC] today issued a decision on the release of prisoners. The decision stipulates that some of the prisoners will be granted amnesty and will not have to serve the rest of their sentences. These will include ill prisoners who are not expected to recover, except for those imprisoned on charges of espionage, and except for Free Masons and Bahais. The amnesty also includes those prisoners who are more than 60 years old and who have served half their prison terms, provided they were imprisoned on one charge no matter how long the sentence, or on a number of charges, provided the total sentence does not exceed 15 years. This does not apply to those imprisoned for spying or to Free Masons, Bahais and saboteurs in the northern region. The amnesty also includes those who were imprisoned on charges of carrying or possessing arms outside the autonomous region, and those Iraqis and foreigners imprisoned for illegal entry into Iraq and for smuggling related to such illegal entry.

The decision stipulates the immediate release of another group of prisoners who have served half their terms. These include those imprisoned for not more than 15 years for crimes related to honor, self-defense or homicide if the prison term had been commuted because of mitigating circumstances. It also includes those imprisoned for 10 years for ordinary crimes and crimes against honor. Those not included in these groups are to be granted a reduction of 50 percent of their remaining prison terms. These include those imprisoned for murder, ordinary crimes and crimes against honor.

The decision excludes from the amnesty spies, Bahais, Free Masons, child kidnapers, criminals imprisoned for immoral traffic, sabotage and arms trading in the northern region, and those who have been sentenced to death.

The decision empowers the Central Committee formed by the RCC to release those who were imprisoned on other charges which are not included in the decision if these prisoners have changed their basic attitude toward the revolution and its pan-Arab and national aims.

INA has learned that in accordance with the decision, 2,835 prisoners are to be released tomorrow morning on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the 17 July Revolution. Another 4,000 prisoners will be released during the next few days after the necessary legal procedures have been completed.

Commenting on the decision, 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC member and interior minister, stated that the decision stems from the aims of the Ba'th Party and its humane and socialist theory. The minister said that after 10 years, the 17 July Revolution has created deep changes in the Iraqi social structure which are reflected in all aspects of Iraqi life. The revolution, he added, also created deep changes among the strata of society and affected the lives of those citizens who suffered from backwardness and who harmed themselves by committing various crimes. The decision to release the prisoners expresses the comprehensive change introduced by the revolution during the past 10 years, the minister further said.

Interior Minister Comments

JN171515Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 17 Jul 78 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 17 July--'Izzat Ibrahim, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and interior minister, has announced that 266 of a total of only 317 political prisoners in Iraq were released today in implementation of the RCC decision to grant an amnesty.

In an exclusive interview with INA, Ibrahim explained that prior to the issuance of the decision today, there were only 10,004 prisoners in all of Iraq charged with social and economic crimes. A total of 670 of these are charged with contravening regulations and illegal entry into Iraq. He added that 2,835 ordinary prisoners were released today. A total of 4,000 others will also be released, leaving in custody only 3,169 prisoners with long sentences. The RCC decision commuted these long sentences but did not release the prisoners.

The decision excluded those charged with spying, Free Masonry, Baha'ism, and the crimes of kidnaping and soliciting, as well as those charged with the crimes of sabotage and arms trafficking in the northern area.

U.S. AMBASSADOR PARKER MEETS WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS

NC181348Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Jul 78 NC

[Text] President Sarkis and the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon met for 30 minutes. After the meeting, Ambassador Parker said: We discussed the general situation and held an extensive review.

Asked whether he has conveyed U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's message to President Sarkis, Parker replied: I conveyed Secretary Vance's message to Minister Butrus yesterday. Minister Butrus, in turn, conveyed it to President Sarkis today.

Asked about his views on the situation in the south, Ambassador Parker replied: We hope for the best, God willing. He added that progress is being made every day.

Asked about a report saying that the United States will shortly supply aid to the army, he replied: There is nothing new concerning this subject.

Asked about his views on the outcome of Dr Waldheim's visit to the region and whether he expects anything from it, Parker replied: I have no information on Dr Waldheim's visit to the region, and I have no comment to make on its outcome.

SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT BEIRUT THIS WEEK

NC181407Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Jul 78 NC

[Text] The security situation continues to draw the attention of political and official circles, particularly concerning the implementation of the measures adopted by officials. Meanwhile, the security situation has witnessed a noticeable improvement today. Life has returned to normal in most of the public departments of the capital and its suburbs.

Some measures are being implemented. These involve the assumption of duties by the Internal Security Forces and their supervision of security in various places in the capital and on some of the roads leading to it. Other measures will be implemented in the next few days in light of the measures which are being adopted in the meetings held by the officials concerned.

Meanwhile, official and political consultations aimed at implementing the points covered in the president's message continue at various levels.

Political observers expect a week full of bilateral contacts and discussions between Beirut and Damascus in order to coordinate the efforts aimed at removing the causes of the crisis witnessed recently by Lebanon. It has been ascertained that Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam will visit Beirut this week in order to start these contacts. Prime Minister Salim al-Huss is to visit the Syrian capital the beginning of next week in order to hold discussions with Syrian officials.

Political observers expect President Ilyas Sarkis to outline in the weekly cabinet meeting tomorrow his views on the next phase, as well as the steps and measures to be taken in light of the Lebanese, international and Arab guarantees and promises which were made as a result of the efforts aimed at removing the causes of the political crisis in Lebanon.

BUTRUS ANSWERS QUESTIONS AFTER MEETING SARKIS

NC181420Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Today at noon, President Sarkis met with the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and defense, Fu'ad Butrus. The meeting lasted 30 minutes. After the meeting, the following dialog took place with Minister Butrus:

Asked whether the subject of military conscription was discussed in his meeting with the army commander and some officers in the Ministry of Defense this morning, Butrus replied: The meeting held under my chairmanship in the Ministry of Defense this morning, which included the army commander and the staff officers, aimed at studying and discussing all the subjects which should be put into effect in light of the president's recent message. First and foremost among these subjects is the National Service Law, the entry of the army into the south and other topics which must be implemented as a result of the plan outlined in the president's message. Minister Butrus added: This meeting will be followed by other meetings, whenever they are warranted. There are lessons and plans which are being drawn up by the command in order to translate President Sarkis' goals into reality as soon as possible.

Upon being informed that some newspapers reported today that the army, in cooperation with the security forces, will assume the protection of Beirut Port, and upon being asked whether this is true, Minister Butrus replied: This subject was not discussed this morning because it was already decided, 48 hours ago, that the army would assume some security tasks in the port.

Asked whether Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's visit will definitely take place on Thursday, Minister Butrus replied: The date of arrival has not been definitely fixed. I will contact my colleague, Minister Khaddam, tomorrow in order to fix the date.

PRIME MINISTER AL-HUSS ON SECURITY SITUATION

NC181421Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss met with the commander of the Arab Deterrent Forces, Lt Col Sami al-Khatib, this morning and received the latest reports on the security situation in the various parts of the country. After the meeting, which lasted 1 hour, the following dialog took place between Prime Minister al-Huss and journalists:

Asked about the meeting, he said: We discussed security matters.

Asked whether the army or the gendarmerie would take up positions in the port, he replied: They are supposed to take up positions today.

Asked whether the deterrent forces are still in the port, he replied: The deterrent forces have withdrawn from the port and are camped in a neighboring area. At any rate, the security forces and the army are working in coordination with the deterrent forces.

Asked whether a security plan or security arrangements exist, he replied: There are arrangements but not a plan in the full sense of the word.

Asked whether these arrangements include the western area, he replied: The deterrent forces are assuming the task of maintaining security in this area while the Internal Security Forces are present in this area and are carrying out their tasks.

Lt Col Sami al-Khatib, in reply to a question, said: The situation is fine, praise be to God. It is natural that we should discuss current urgent matters with his excellency the prime minister, the foremost of which is the security situation.

Asked why the security forces were late in entering 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, he replied: The situation is not as you describe it. The specialized commands are studying this subject in accordance with general principles so that they may deal with it.

Asked whether the security arrangements will include the whole of the eastern area, he replied: They will cover the whole of Lebanon.

Asked about the truth of reports concerning the withdrawal of the deterrent forces from the eastern area within a predetermined period, he replied: Any withdrawal is a military matter, which should not be announced. It is dictated by military circumstances and we are not going to carry it out under any pressure from anybody.

LEBANESE ARMY POSITIONED IN STRATEGIC AREAS OF BEIRUT

JN181635Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 18 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 18 July--Forces from the Lebanese Army took up positions in strategic areas near the Beirut port this afternoon as part of the security plan drawn up by the government in the wake of recent events.

This stationing of forces was described as the beginning of the Lebanese Army's assumption of the tasks of internal security, as well as those of guarding and protecting public utilities and main roads in the country. It was also reported that as part of this plan, the Arab Deterrent Forces will withdraw to concentration centers to be supported by army and internal security forces. They will act only in case of need and only when requested by the responsible authorities.

Officers Abroad To Be Recalled

NC181739Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1615 GMT 18 Jul 78 NC

[Text] At noon today, Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus emphasized that intensive efforts are being exerted to turn the contents of President Sarkis' message into practical measures as soon as possible.

Minister Butrus headed a meeting at the Defense Ministry today. It was attended by the commander of the Lebanese Army and the chiefs of staff. The discussion dealt with the tasks which will be assigned to the army in the capital, the districts and the south. The decision of the army command to recall all the Lebanese officers abroad is evidence that active efforts are being made to implement the security plans. Those involved are officers who have been appointed military attaches in diplomatic missions or who chose to leave Lebanon during the 2-year war and have not yet returned.

Defense Ministry sources said that the decision to recall the officers has been circulated among all Lebanese embassies in Europe and North and South America.

Within the framework of implementing the short-term security plans in the capital and its suburbs, army and Internal Security Forces took up positions at the port. It is now clear that the Lebanese Army and the Internal Security Forces will assume the task of maintaining security directly involving the citizens. The deterrent forces are now taking positions at fixed points. It is also expected that the heavy weapons will be withdrawn from the capital so that the citizens may not live [two words indistinct] the renewal of the haphazard shelling in the event of a new security setback.

An official Lebanese source has stated that the Lebanese parties have responded to the security plan and that they are in the process of withdrawing their fighters from the streets in order to facilitate the task of the Internal Security Forces in taking up the positions which these fighters occupied during the recent incidents.

AL-JUMAYYIL MAKES STATEMENT AFTER MEETING SARKIS

NC181341Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 18 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpts] Following a lengthy meeting held in Ba'abda Palace today with the president of the republic, Phalangist Party leader Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil told reporters:

It is true that Lebanon has lost many innocent people and a great deal of property, but I believe that Syria has lost more. Two years ago, Syria won a moral victory in the Arab and international spheres by its civilized initiative, which taught the Arab and foreign worlds a lesson that Arabism is not sectarian but has a civilized character. I do not believe that a man such as President al-Asad, who made the famous 1976 speech in which he drew attention to the faction which was destroying Lebanon and in which he exposed the engineers and executors of sedition, approves of what has happened in Lebanon at the hands of some Syrians, not to say at the hands of the Syrian Army. I fear that the same elements which destroyed Arab, Palestinian and Lebanese issues are seeking to destroy a number of areas and cities in this region. I regret Syria's stand during the recent events, for it has lost a great deal, just as Lebanon has lost. Syria has lost its position as an umpire.

Answering a question, Al-Jumayyil expressed surprise at the unrealistic official Syrian information campaign emanating from a cultured country. He added: I call for learning a lesson from the 1967 war, when the chaotic information media followed the methods of Ash-Shuqayri [former PLO chairman] and Ahmad Sa'id [former Voice of the Arabs commentator]. I urge the Syrian information media not to follow these methods, which are rejected by civilized Arab peoples. Many Syrians have been disgusted by such media, particularly when they hear that the Phalangists and the Liberals were against Lebanon and with Israel.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS CLASHES IN SOUTH

NC181200Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 18 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Travelers coming from southern Lebanon reported that they heard explosions in the Bint Jubayl area this morning. It has been learned that clashes have taken place between the UN forces and unidentified groups.

KURT WALDHEIM LEAVES DAMASCUS, MAKES STATEMENT

JN181133Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Dr Kurt Waldheim, the secretary general of the United Nations, concluded his visit to Syria today. He was seen off at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. In a statement before his departure, Dr Waldheim said that his talks were very useful and constructive. These talks, he added, dealt with the Middle East question in general and the UN peace force operations, especially in southern Lebanon.

SYRIAN SOURCES DENY AGREEMENT BETWEEN AL-ASAD, SARKIS

NC180820Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0736 GMT 18 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 18 July--Syrian sources have denied to Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB, in a statement published today, the report published by a Kuwaiti newspaper the day before yesterday that an agreement has been concluded between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis. According to this agreement, the Arab Deterrent Forces were not to enter the areas controlled by the Phalangist and Sham'unist forces.

These sources said that no such agreement has been concluded. They added that during his contacts with the Lebanese president, the Syrian president affirmed that the deterrent forces, being the legitimate army of Lebanon, have the right to maintain law and order in all areas in order to consolidate Lebanese authority.

These sources noted that the deterrent forces were still stationed in areas controlled by the Phalangist and Sham'unist forces and that the stationing of the Internal Security Forces in east Beirut was in accordance with a decision made by President Sarkis' government.

ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS

JN181122Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Algerian President Houari Boumediene arrived in Damascus today. He was met at the airport by President Hafiz al-Asad and senior state officials. After the official reception, the two presidents drove in an official motorcade to the guest palace.

Hold Talks

JN181254Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Jul 78 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus--The two presidents held a meeting at the guest palace attended by the Syrian prime minister and deputy prime ministers and the members of the official delegation accompanying President Boumediene. At 1300, Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Houari Boumediene moved to the Presidential Palace where they continued the talks in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

Leaves Damascus

JN181700Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Jul 78 JN

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Houari Boumediene, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus at 1600 today. He was seen off at the airport by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

At their meeting in the Presidential Palace in Damascus this afternoon, Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Houari Boumediene reviewed the situation in the Arab area and developments in the Arab east and Arab Maghreb. They also reviewed the situation in Lebanon. The meeting also afforded an opportunity to exchange viewpoints regarding issues to be raised at the OAU summit in Khartoum. Viewpoints were in total agreement regarding all the issues discussed.

DPRK VICE PRESIDENT PAK SONG-CHOL ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS

JN182140Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 18 Jul 78 JN

[Text] A DPRK party and government delegation under Pak Song-chol, member of the Korean Workers Party Central Committee and DPRK vice president, arrived in Damascus at 1930 today on a 6-day visit to Syria. The delegation was received at Damascus International Airport by Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi; Jamil Shayya, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmad, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and head of the Syrian-Korean Friendship Society; several ministers; the DPRK ambassador in Damascus; and the heads of the diplomatic missions of the socialist countries.

Pak Song-chol made a statement to a SANA correspondent in which he expressed his happiness to be visiting Syria to acquaint himself with the Syrian people's achievements under the leadership of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. He said: The Korean people are extremely proud of their friendship with the Syrian people. They are determined to exert their utmost to strengthen the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Concluding his statement, Pak Song-chol hailed the Syrian people's struggle against imperialism and Zionism, and to build a new society.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DELEGATION RETURNS FROM ROMANIA

JN150535Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 15 Jul 78 JN

[Text] The People's Assembly delegation under Speaker Mahmud Hadid returned to Damascus from Bucharest last night following a weeklong visit to Romania at the invitation of the Romanian National Assembly.

The People's Assembly delegation was received at Damascus International Airport by Taha al-Khayrat, minister of local administration; Muhammad 'Adil Jamus, deputy speaker of the People's Assembly; a number of People's Assembly members; and the Romanian charge d'affairs in Damascus.

ALGERIA

KING HASSAN SCORED FOR BACKING IMPERIALISTS IN AFRICA

LD171051Y Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 10 Jul 78 p 5 LD

[APS report: "Hassan II's Regime Is an Active Tool of Imperialist Offensive in Africa"]

[Text] Algiers--"Hassan II's despotic regime plays the role of an active and zealous tool of the imperialist offensive in Africa since its fate, and above all its survival, depend on the military and economic presence of imperialism in Morocco, the Arab world and Africa," the Moroccan patriotic organization "Ilal Amam" declares in a communique published in Algiers the day before yesterday. In this connection the patriotic organization "Ilal Amam" explains that Hassan II has sent 1,500 soldiers, equipped by France and transported on this occasion by American C-141's, to help his natural ally Mobutu, thus relieving the French and Belgian legionnaires and other paratroopers.

"Owing to the upsurge of national liberation struggles and the threat they pose to the imperialists' interests and economic and strategic positions in Africa and the Arab world," the "Ilal Amam" organization states, "International imperialism is calling its forces and those of its lackeys to arms in order to contain this threat."

"Within this overall strategy the French imperialists play the role of a strike force, the imperialists' gendarmes, since Giscard's troops are found intervening, in accordance with colonial traditions, in Western Sahara, Chad, Lebanon, Zaire and Mauritania," the "Ilal Amam" organization recalls.

"In the face of this coalition, this imperialist aggressiveness and the reactionary forces in Africa and the Arab world," the "Ilal Amam" organization continues, "anti-imperialist and antireactionary forces must unite and make the necessary, effective counterattack, for there is no room in this battle for ambiguity or a wait-and-see policy."

The patriotic organization "Ilal Amam" concludes: "In our country in particular the demarcation line is clear, and a grouping together of all our people's healthy national forces is more necessary than ever to combat on our own soil the reactionary and imperialist offensive which is being deployed in Africa, for we cannot allow Hassan II's treacherous regime to use our country as a base for attacks against fraternal African peoples."

LIBYA

MALTA, LIBYA SIGN JOINT FISHING AGREEMENT

LD181808Y Tripoli JANA in English 1441 GMT 18 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 18 July, JANA--A Maltese-Libyan agreement for the establishment of a joint fishing company was signed here yesterday. Mr Muhammad Azazarruq Rajab, treasury secretary, signed the agreement on behalf of the Jamahiriyah. Mr. Danny Cremona, the Maltese minister of industry, fisheries and agriculture, signed the agreement for Malta.

Both sides signed a draft agreement with the aim of promoting bilateral relations in the fields of commerce, agriculture and industry and strengthening cooperation in connection with the establishment of joint companies. Mr Cremona and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli last night, winding up their short visit to the Jamahiriyah. They were seen off at Tripoli International Airport by Mr. Rajab and Mr. Maurice Branou, the Maltese ambassador to the Jamahiriyah.

MAURITANIA

MINISTERS ON TOUR TO EXPLAIN NEW GOVERNMENT

PA181509Y Paris AFP in English 1435 GMT 18 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, 18 July (AFP)--Mauritanian Equipment Minister Ahmed Salem Ould Sidi left here last night for Paris with a message from new head of state Mustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck to French President Valery Giscard D'estaing, it was learned today.

Meanwhile Lt Col Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Luli, minister for control and investigations (Mauritania's new ombudsman), left for Saudi Arabia with a message from head of state Saleck for Saudi King Khalid.

Education Minister Seck Mame Ndiack was also due to tour Tunisia, Belgium, France and Morocco.

Informed sources said that all these trips were part of a campaign by the new Mauritanian military regime to explain its policies abroad.

COMMITTEE MEMBER LEAVES WITH MESSAGE FOR AL-QADHDHAFI

LD182204Y Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jul 78 LD

[Summary] Moulaye Ould Boukreiss, member of the Military Committee for National Recovery, left Nouakchott this afternoon for Tripoli heading an important delegation. He will deliver a letter on recent events in our country from Lt Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi.

FORMER YOUTH LEADER INTERVIEWED ON NEW REGIME

PA182224Y Paris AFP in French 1507 GMT 18 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, 18 Jul (AFP)--Tijani Ould Kerim, former president of the Higher Council of Young People [CSJ], youth wing of the now dissolved Mauritanian People's Party [PPM], has said in essence that the Mauritanian youth deeply hope for peace and can do nothing but encourage the new regime in its determination to end the Sahara conflict.

During an interview with AFP, Kerim, 27, added that since the start of the war in which Mauritania has been fighting against the POLISARIO Front and Algeria, peace has always been "the essential concern" of Mauritanian youths. He admitted that "the situation had come to a stalemate under the former regime and the chances for a solution were almost nonexistent. New men, new forces were necessary to achieve peace."

While at the head of a PPM office, Kerim had been arrested by the Military Committee of National Recovery, which had just overthrown President Ould Daddah on 10 July. [sentence as received] The former CSJ leader should have been released on Saturday, 15 July, together with Mohammed Ali Cherif, former secretary general of the presidency.

Kerim refused to go into detail about his detention. He simply said that it took place "under good conditions."

RADIO REPORTS ON ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN TALKS IN UK

TA181741Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 18 Jul 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] Here is a report from Leeds Castle: At this moment the deliberations between the delegations of Israel, Egypt and the United States are being resumed, following this morning's session which opened the official part of the conference. Yoram Peri, reporting from Leeds Castle, has more details on this morning's session: [begin recording]

This morning's session of the London meeting lasted 3 and 1/2 hours and the prevailing atmosphere there was not very pleasant. The spokesman for the U.S. secretary of state defined it as businesslike, a euphemism which speaks for itself.

The meeting began with a brief opening statement by Vance. Dayan then presented the autonomy plan and explained its principles. When he finished, the floor was given to the government legal adviser, Prof Aharon Baraq, who also detailed the plan for self-administration in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The two were asked by the Egyptian delegation, and to a lesser extent by the U.S. secretary of state, to clarify their remarks. After that, the Egyptians' turn came. The Egyptian foreign minister presented the principles of the Egyptian proposal and his senior adviser, Dr Usamah al-Bazz detailed the various articles. At this stage, it was the Israelis' turn to ask questions. Dr al-Bazz demonstrated rigidity in his approach.

The Egyptian stiffness was also demonstrated in the press conference that took place after this morning's session. When the spokesmen of the two delegations were asked whether in fact the direct talks between Israel and Egypt were renewed today, the Israeli spokesman replied in the affirmative, while the Egyptian answered in the negative--If we find encouraging, positive elements during the coming talks in the London conference, we will continue the direct negotiations with Israeli. For the time being, we are not doing so, he said.

In this morning's session, nine people--three from each delegation--sat at the round table, as well as ten additional people.

The impression at this stage is that the talks are not easy, that there still is a rather wide gap between the positions. However, this is only the beginning of the deliberations. [end recording]

DAYAN NOT EMPOWERED TO DISCUSS INTERIM SETTLEMENT

TA182008Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Jul 78 TA

[Text] U.S. roving ambassador Alfred Atherton will come to Israel next week for another round of shuttle tours in the Middle East. Atherton will try to set a framework for the continuation of the negotiations between Israel and Egypt, which will probably take place in Al-'Arish. Jerusalem observers estimate that As-Sadat regards the continuation of the negotiations in Al-'Arish after the conference at Leeds Castle as maintaining the momentum of the political negotiations even in the event that the conference should fail. Here is a report by political correspondent Elimelekh Ram:

In consultations in Jerusalem, criticism was leveled at Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman's meeting with President as-Sadat in Salzburg. Weizman said that during the talk with As-Sadat he told the Egyptian president that, contrary to the situation in Judaea and Samaria, in the Sinai and the Golan Heights there is an international border to which one can refer in negotiations.

Those who criticized the defense minister argued that Weizman was not authorized to discuss the Golan with As-Sadat and neither was he authorized to make any proposals with respect to that region.

There were ministers who today expressed surprise at a report according to which the foreign minister might propose another interim agreement with Egypt at the Leeds conference. On this matter, too, the ministers say, there was no governmental consultation and the foreign minister did not leave for the conference with a mandate authorizing him to propose another interim agreement.

Political circles said today that it is possible that Israel might respond to As-Sadat's proposal to return Al-'Arish to Egyptian civil rule as an interim arrangement. Such an Israeli step might improve the atmosphere and provide time for trying to solve the central problem in the negotiations: the question of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza region.

It has been learned that on the eve of As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon proposed--as a countergesture for As-Sadat's initiative--that Israel agree to Egyptian civil administration in Al-'Arish. The proposal was brought to the cabinet session and was rejected by a majority vote. Only two people voted for it: the prime minister and the agriculture minister.

BEGIN WARNS MINISTERS AGAINST CABINET TANTRUMS

TA190815Y Jerusalem POST in English 19 Jul 78 p 1, 2 TA

[By Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin yesterday moved to halt tempestuous outbursts in his cabinet and told his ministers, "there will be no more raising of voices at this table or this government will not be worthy of its name."

Defence Minister 'Ezer Weizman, who reportedly shouted at two ministers on Sunday and tore a peace poster off a wall in the prime minister's office the next day, was not present at yesterday's cabinet session.

Weizman was touring Engineer Corps units yesterday morning. He later came to the Knesset for a meeting of a ministerial committee.

There were conflicting reports about the incident in which Weizman tore down the poster carrying the word shalom in large black and gold letters.

According to one report, Weizman was on his way to a meeting of the Ministerial Committee for Internal Security and tore the poster off the wall, saying there was no room for it in the prime minister's office because the cabinet does not really want peace.

Sources friendly to Weizman played down the incident. They said that Weizman "took the poster off" because he felt it was aesthetically out of place. The poster tore accidentally because it had been tacked to the wall, they said.

The sources also ridiculed suggestions that Weizman boycotted Sunday's meeting of Herut's Central Committee. The minister was meeting air force officers and later held his weekly meeting with Chief of Staff Refa'el Eytan, they said.

Cabinet sources shrugged off Weizman's outbursts as not reflecting any deeper political disagreements than before. "We've seen worse outbursts," one said.

But there was no denying that Weizman shouted angrily at Commerce Minister Yig'al Horowitz and Agriculture Minister 'Ariel Sharon on Sunday.

According to several accounts Weizman was reporting on his meeting with Egypt's President Anwar as-Sadat in Austria when Horowitz said something to the effect that, "we've heard such talk already." Sharon who sits next to Weizman at the cabinet table, made another "fairly innocent remark" the source maintained. "The outburst was out of proportion," one minister claimed.

But Weizman apparently felt he was provoked, because he judged the remarks against the background of long-standing differences with Horowitz and Sharon.

Horowitz, who opposed Weizman's trips to Egypt and Austria, maintains that As-Sadat wants to push Israel back to the pre-6-Day War boundaries and his moderate oral messages--through Weizman and in press reports--are designed to generate a favourable public opinion and win American support.

Sharon argued that Israel cannot pursue a policy based on conciliatory statements As-Sadat whispers in someone's ear. As-Sadat talks in several voices and what counts most of all are his extreme proposals for an Israel withdrawal from Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District, the minister maintained.

According to one report, Sharon was also critical of Weizman for not rebutting As-Sadat's attacks against Begin strongly enough.

Weizman on the other hand feels that As-Sadat's extreme positions are an opening stance in the negotiations and that the Egyptian leader really wants peace.

Begin did not speak on this topic at Sunday's cabinet meeting but his silence indicated support for Weizman's critics. This was borne out at Sunday night's Herut Central Committee meeting, when the prime minister declared that whispers do not count--only the printed Egyptian proposals.

The dovish ministers did not speak up.

The differences in interpreting As-Sadat's real motives had a direct bearing on the decision to hold an in-depth discussion on Weizman's report next Sunday, rather than before the foreign ministers' meeting at Leeds Castle.

"Weizman felt this was not the way to do things. The cabinet sent him to see (Egyptian Foreign Minister) Kamil's boss but the cabinet does not even consider what As-Sadat had to say," the source told the Jerusalem POST last night.

But some cabinet sources strongly rejected suggestions that ministers had not debated Weizman's report because they did not consider it to be important enough. One source told the POST the debate was postponed for fear of leaks.

Some ministers are expected to say that As-Sadat has lied, the source said. (The proposals As-Sadat made in Austria had already been made in Egypt but were later retracted. As-Sadat explained that a committee from Gaza had met him after he made the proposals and persuaded him to withdraw them. In fact, As-Sadat did not receive a committee from Gaza, it was learnt here.) The reports on the meeting, and perhaps a rejection of his proposals, may lead As-Sadat to call the talks or harden his position, it was claimed here.

Most sources expected this storm to blow over, but they were hesitant about predicting future developments.

"The cycle of bitterness and reconciliation does not repeat itself endlessly. If the pendulum swings again there may be a break," a dovish minister told the POST.

Another source said that Begin "will have to call Weizman in for a talk."

Sharon is meanwhile trying to avoid clashes with Weizman. A source friendly to the agriculture minister said that Sharon wants to maintain the "cease-fire" established between them several weeks ago.

Meanwhile MK Yosef Tamir is trying to push the Liberal Party ministers and members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee into playing a moderating role on such developments.

The Liberal Party ministers, Simha Ehrlich, Gid'on Pat and Yizhaq Moda'i, are to meet tomorrow with the party's representatives in the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee and the chairman of the Liberal Party Knesset faction to discuss the Israel-Egyptian contacts and developments in the cabinet following Weizman's trip to Salzburg.

Herut MK Yosef Rom criticized Weizman for having said As-Sadat wants peace. "When As-Sadat says that Israel's position is rigid and indicates no willingness for peace, Weizman's statement that Egypt's president really wants peace is another blow at the government's image," he told the POST yesterday. When a cabinet minister gives the Egyptians such a weapon, the Israel information apparatus will find it difficult to withstand the resulting onslaught, Rom maintained.

'AL HAMISHMAR COMMENTS ON WEIZMAN'S DIFFICULT POSITION

TA181122Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 18 Jul 78 p 3 TA

[Dorit Gefen commentary]

[Excerpt] Even if we do not ignore As-Sadat's aims of embarrassing Begin, causing quarrels in the cabinet and maybe even bringing about a change in the rule (As-Sadat ought to know that this is not the way to go about things) there is still no little wrong being done to 'Ezer Weizman, with people trying to attribute to him "a personal interest" in his moves with the Egyptians. It is not this that is driving 'Ezer Weizman, but rather his urgent desire not to miss the right moment. It may be assumed that the prime minister will now try, in his own way to weaken Weizman, and with the aid of several ministers, to push the defense minister into a corner in which Weizman will only be able to kick and maybe draw conclusions. 'Ezer knows that Begin will not stop him if he decides to resign. It was enough to see the admiring glances the prime minister cast at Arik Sharon when the latter spoke at the Herut center, in order to know that Begin regards him as a candidate for the post of minister of defense.

The prime minister emphasized in his remarks that As-Sadat had not changed his positions since his speech to the Knesset on 20 November, and added that only the written documents should be referred to and not remarks made privately and in a whisper. Is this indeed so? Should we really disregard what was said in a political discussion between President as-Sadat and the Israeli minister of defense regarding his willingness to agree to minor border changes in Judaea and Samaria? It is true that the cabinet prevented the disclosure of this information to the public for a few months--claiming that it would be given at the cabinet when it met as the Ministerial Committee for Security, but now As-Sadat has repeated the remarks in a television interview--and the public sees and hears.

What is this talk about the allegation that Peres did not ask As-Sadat whether he was prepared for a territorial compromise? It is a fact--and we have heard with our own ears that As-Sadat is prepared to accept the principle of the compromise. He does, it is true, claim minor changes only, but is this not a step forward from his opening position of a total withdrawal? Why, then, will the Cabinet of Israel not make a parallel gesture and retreat from its position on nonwithdrawal from Judaea and Samaria and declare, at least, its willingness for a minor withdrawal?

This is indeed the Achilles' heel of the Begin cabinet--its inability to accept territorial concessions in the West Bank. The main question today is what will the DMC and MAFDAL ministers do, and how courageous will the liberal ministers be? Will they do everything they can to maintain the new impetus which began last week, or will they, from inertia, return the negotiations to a deep deadlock.

'EROSION' IN HERUT PARTY LEADERSHIP FEARED

TA181246Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 18 Jul 78 p 2 TA

[By Amnon Barzila'i]

[Text] Senior party functionaries said yesterday that fears of tremors at the Herut Movement and of an erosion in the relations at the party leadership are being felt following the meeting of the center the day before yesterday, and the accusations that have been leveled at Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman in connection with his meeting with As-Sadat. The prime minister was accused of not having given the defense minister proper backing at the party center meeting, regarding his trip to Salzburg, despite previous consent and support by the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs.

Herut Party functionaries said yesterday that the moment is approaching when the defense minister will have to decide whether to withdraw from the cabinet, or remain in it despite personal attacks against him by some cabinet members. The functionaries yesterday cited the meeting of the party center as an example of the prime minister's jilting the defense minister by failing to come to Mr Weizman's defense when he was attacked by most of the speakers at the meeting.

The same sources observed that the prime minister could hardly have refused permission to opposition leader MK Shim'on Peres to go to Vienna to meet with As-Sadat. However, if the defense minister met with As-Sadat in Salzburg contrary to the prime minister's wishes, that would be a certificate of weakness for Mr Begin, implying that he did not dare to prevent the meeting and that he even openly supported it. The sources went on to say that there was actually an advantage to Weizman's mission, since if MK Peres "stole the show" from Mr Begin (by his meeting with As-Sadat), then Mr Weizman "stole the show" from MK Peres.

As for the standing of the defense minister, Herut Movement functionaries estimated yesterday that he was wrong in deciding to absent himself from the political discussion at the party center. Had he answered his attackers, he might have restored the support of most members of the center. Circles close to the defense minister claimed that members of the Herut Center who had heard the prime minister's vigorous speech the day before yesterday would hardly have accepted the defense minister's explanations afterwards.

DAMAGE CAUSED BY LEAKS FROM WEIZMAN'S REPORTS NOTED

TA181100Y Tel Aviv HAZOFE in Hebrew 18 Jul 78 p 1 TA

[By Sha'ul Schiff]

[Text] Great damage was caused to the negotiations between Israel and Egypt because of leaks of sensitive details from the reports by Minister of Defense 'Ezer Weizman on his talks in Salzburg.

A reliable source told our correspondent that the press reports that the president of Egypt proposed holding the continuation of the negotiations in Al-'Arish have aroused the ire of Egyptian President as-Sadat and Minister of War al-Jamasi. As far as can be seen, a sharp reaction came from the Egyptian minister of war to this matter and the idea regarding the holding of talks in Al-'Arish was struck off the agenda.

The same source told our correspondent that the defense minister asked for this detail to remain secret so as not to harm Egypt and the intention concealed behind its proposal of holding the talks in Al-'Arish.

The proposals which Weizman brought from his meeting with As-Sadat do not involve the London conference.

Our political correspondent reports:

The proposals which Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman brought from his meeting with As-Sadat do not involve the London conference and are of a nature different from those being discussed there, governmental circles told our correspondent yesterday.

Among the proposals he brought are:

--Holding a meeting between Egyptian and Israeli representatives in Al-'Arish.
--A visit by As-Sadat to Santa Katerina.
--A proposal for a gesture on the part of Israel of handing over Al-'Arish to civilian Egyptian rule.
--Joint Israeli-Egyptian-Jordanian participation in the administration of the territories during the interim period.

Together with all this, As-Sadat is prepared to approach Israel in the sphere of peaceful relations and he is prepared for normal mutual relations.

The proposals will be discussed on Sunday at the cabinet session, together with the report on the London conference.

AL-JAMASI MESSAGE COMPLAINS OF LEAKS

TA190745Y Jerusalem POST in English 19 Jul 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Egyptian War Minister Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi sent a cable to Defence Minister 'Ezer Weizman yesterday complaining bitterly that the contents of Weizman's talks with Egyptian President as-Sadat in Salzburg last Thursday had been made public.

The war minister is believed to have expressed his dismay in the cable at the fact that virtually every aspect of the discussions between As-Sadat and Weizman was made public.

Weizman was also criticized in the cabinet Sunday for having allowed details of the discussions to become known before the cabinet had received them.

Defence Ministry circles, however, insist that the ministry was not responsible for disseminating the details.

In Cairo, a government source on Monday emphatically denied that As-Sadat had agreed to an Israel military presence on the West Bank after peace.

LATE REPORT: STORMY KNESSET SESSION IN PROGRESS

Peres-Begin Confrontation

TA191030Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 19 Jul 78 TA

[Text] a political debate on the latest developments in the negotiations with Egypt and on the foreign ministers' talks at Leeds Castle is currently underway at the Knesset following a motion for the agenda submitted by the Alinement.

MK Shim'on Peres attacked the government for its moves and called them a failure. Addressing himself to the prime minister, Peres said that the one who prided himself on bringing the rain must also bear the blame for the drought. He said that the cabinet's current policy is a guarantee for isolation and almost for surrender. The Alinement faction leader thinks that the autonomy plan will ultimately grant independence to the Palestinians and that unintentionally the government is helping events work to that end.

As for his Salzburg [as heard] meeting with President as-Sadat, Peres said that it centered on the past and on the future. He said that he received the impression that there is a growing concern in Egypt over the Soviet expansion in the Red Sea area and in Africa.

Peres explained that his meeting with the Egyptian president was justified because by that means the opposition tried to restore the sympathy Israel had lost among nations due to the cabinet.

Prime Minister Menahem Begin's reply caused frequent verbal collisions. Begin said that it was strange that in his talk with As-Sadat Peres did not raise the idea of a territorial compromise favored by the Alinement. While speaking, Begin took a sheet of paper, tore it in two and said: This is a territorial compromise.

At this stage, shouting began and lasted for approximately 15 minutes. The prime minister also rejected Alinement criticism claiming that there are not enough political debates at the Knesset. He said that this Knesset holds many more political debates than there were during Yizhaq Rabin's rule.

The DMC faction decided to allow its members a free vote at the political debate. The decision came on the initiative of DMC Knesset members, among them former Shinuy members. Our correspondent Zevi Lidar says that the DMC ministers will vote with the government. At this moment, the Knesset political debate is continuing.

Begin Wants Continued Negotiations

TA191116Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Jul 78 TA

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Begin announced from the Knesset podium today that he is prepared even now to continue the negotiations with Egypt despite all of President as-Sadat's harsh words against him. Begin does not rule out the possibility of inviting President as-Sadat to come to Jerusalem again, if he knew that no refusal was to be expected.

The prime minister said this in reply to a motion for the agenda submitted by the Alinement about the latest developments in the negotiations with Egypt and about the foreign ministers' talks at Leeds Castle.

GOOD WILL GESTURES TOWARD EGYPT TO BE CONSIDERED

TA181350Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Jul 78 pp 1, 8 TA

[By Arye Zimuqi]

[Text] At one of its next meetings the cabinet is likely to decide to respond in part to As-Sadat's request for a gesture of good will from Israel, provided that the atmosphere and the relations between the two heads of state improve first.

The good will gestures proposed by As-Sadat at his meeting with Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman include the handing over by Israel of Al-'Arish to an Egyptian civilian administration, the construction of a mosque, a church and a synagogue at Santa Katerina and so forth. Details of the proposals are being kept secret, for the time being at least, in accordance with As-Sadat's own explicit request.

The proposals were spelled out by 'Ezer Weizman at the cabinet meeting the day before yesterday, but it was decided that since the gestures in question are of a serious nature, with far-reaching political implications, they could not be undertaken so long as the Egyptian president and his aides continue their incessant attacks on the prime minister and on the foreign minister. In the wake of this, a general consensus has been reached to postpone the discussion of these proposals to a future cabinet session.

The fate of the Egyptian proposals will apparently depend to a considerable extent on the results of the current London talks. Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman agreed that the discussion of the proposals he had brought with him should be postponed until the Egyptians are willing to continue the direct talks after the London talks.

Weizman refused to express his personal opinion on the Egyptian proposals.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that Weizman expressed to the Egyptians his displeasure over their personal attacks on Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

COALITION MK'S OPPOSE IDEA OF AL-'ARISH TALKS

TA181027Y Jerusalem POST in English 18 Jul 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Israel should reject Egypt's proposals to continue the peace negotiations in Al-'Arish, MKs Geula Kohen and Moshe Shamire of the Likud, and Hayyim Druckman of the National Religious Party, said yesterday.

In their appeal to Prime Minister Menahem Begin and the heads of the Knesset factions, the three said the proposal to hold talks in Al-'Arish was designed to "make the yielding of Sinai a foregone conclusion."

PERES COMMENTS ON TALKS WITH AS-SADAT

TA182036Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Jul 78 TA

[Text] Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres returned to Israel a few minutes ago. Mr Peres visited a non-European country in the last few days. In a press conference he held tonight at Ben-Gurion Airport, Peres denied having visited Morocco. In any case, prior to that he stayed in London and Vienna, where he met with President as-Sadat. Correspondent Dan Raviv talked with Peres at Ben-Gurion Airport. [begin videotape]

[Question] Mr Peres, are you bringing with you to Israel specific proposals that President as-Sadat sought to pass to the prime minister?

[Answer] The answer is definitely no. I may be bringing with me further information which has not been published and has not been leaked. I will pass that information to the appropriate people--to the prime minister, to others. However, I am not carrying proposals.

[Question] Information on what, Mr Peres?

[Answer] On ways of thinking, on what happened, on what should take place in the future and the like.

[Question] As for what should be in the future, Mr Peres, one thing is certain--the government desires that in the future only ministers sent on its behalf will conduct negotiations with Egypt. I assume you have heard that decision. Will you stop meeting with the Egyptians?

[Answer] I certainly agree that only ministers should conduct negotiations. However, that does not mean that we will be a closed country. For instance, we belong to a Socialist International that controls half of Europe. Will the government meet instead of us? I do not understand that approach at all. We have not conducted negotiations. We talked and will continue to talk and meet and, in my opinion, the cabinet, too, should learn something and that is that if it wants to hold negotiations it should do so in a parliamentary way--to consult with the Knesset, the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee.

[Question] Does it mean, Mr Peres, that you will go if another invitation arrives, let us say from Kreisky or Brandt, to meet with President as-Sadat in a quadripartite forum or in any other forum?

[Answer] First of all, we shall consider every invitation when it comes. Such an invitation has not come and there is no point in engaging in hypothetical discussions. If you ask: Will we never meet with anyone? My answer is in the negative. If you ask me if we shall always meet and respond to every invitation? My answer would also be in the negative.

[Question] Is there an invitation for you to meet with President as-Sadat and members of his cabinet in Egypt?

[Answer] To the best of my knowledge there is no such invitation. I do not know where people heard this. It has no foundation. As I have said, in my opinion, we chalked up a very big achievement, at the Socialist International, with the decision that is now to be accepted by all the parties and consequently by many socialist governments. I wish the negotiations currently being conducted by the foreign minister all the best. [end videotape]

NEW GROUP CALLS ON AS-SADAT TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE

TA182057Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Jul 78 TA

[Text] A new movement called "Israelis for Israel" has been set up in the last few weeks. One of its activities is collecting signatures for an open letter to President as-Sadat. In that letter, the demand is made that As-Sadat prove his desire to make peace by ceasing to demand all the territories the Arabs lost in the 6-Day War, by condemning the PLO, by abolishing the economic boycott of Israel and by conducting direct and serious negotiations. The leaders of the new movement explained at a press conference in Jerusalem that their goal is to arouse the silent majority in Israel against ultimatum-type demands by the Arabs and against U.S. pressures.

AFGHANISTAN

USSR-AFGHANISTAN SIGN FLUORIDE MINING AGREEMENT

LDT151826Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 Jul 78 LD

[Text] The agreement for working out the technical and economic report on the extraction of the [word indistinct] fluoride ore in the Khakriz District Office in Kandahar Province was concluded by Afghan and Soviet officials in Kabul this morning. In accordance with this agreement, the instruments of which were signed and exchanged on behalf of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan by Eng 'Abdolkafi Rasuli, mines deputy to the Ministry of Mines and Industries, and on behalf of the USSR by Boris Titov, economic counsellor at the Soviet Embassy in Kabul. Within 3 months, the relevant Soviet experts will arrive in Afghanistan and will carry out preliminary surveying work which will be used in working out this report.

Following the signing of the agreement, a Ministry of Mines and Industries spokesman told the BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY's correspondent: The mine's total reserve is estimated to be 8 million tons of fluoride. The substance is used in the steel and chemical industries and enjoys an excellent place on world markets. The cost of working out this technical and economic report for the extraction of fluoride ore will be met by a previous credit given by the Soviet Union.

Eng Mohammad Gholam Rahimi, industries deputy to the Ministry of Mines and Industries, and other high-ranking officials from that ministry were present during the signing of this agreement.

AFGHAN-USSR AGREEMENT ON PORT IMPROVEMENTS SIGNED

LDT151828Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 Jul 78 LD

[Text] The agreement for the renovation, widening and developing of Shir Khan Bandar at a cost of over $5.3 million was signed and its instruments exchanged this afternoon by the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR. The agreement was signed on behalf of Afghanistan by Mohammad Na'im (?Naqshagiri), head of international transport and transit in the Ministry of Trade, and on behalf of the USSR by Mr (Danilevskiy), head of the Masheksport branch of the Soviet trade representative in Kabul. Certain officials from the Trade Ministry and a number of officials from the Soviet Embassy were present during the signing of the agreement. The cost of the project will be covered by a Soviet credit.

ECONOMIC DECISIONS TAKEN BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

LDT182346Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Jul 78 LD

[Text] The Supreme Council of Ministers met at People's House today, 9 July 1978, under the chairmanship of Nur Mohammad Taraki, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Afghanistan People's Democratic Party, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

During the session, discussions took place and the necessary decision was taken relating to the protocol for expanding cultural relations with the Soviet Union.

Discussions also took place and the necessary decisions were taken relating to nationalizing the business of composing songs and music, the importation and use of hunting weapons, government apartments in the Mikroyan Housing Estate and their rental and use, settling the accounts of the Naghlu project [USSR-assisted power station construction], the journeys of officials and workers to salt mines, construction problems relating to the project for the development of the Helmand Valley, the agreement for the sale of 3,100 tons of cotton and the technical and economic agreement for the Qandahar flouride mine with the Soviet Union.

Furthermore, the retirement of a number of high-ranking government officials was approved.

INDIA

INDIRA GANDHI INTERVIEWED ON POLITICAL PROSPECTS

DW181022Y Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 17 Jul 78 pp 118-119 DW

[Text] SPIEGEL: Madam, after the election disaster of March 1977 and the revelations about measures of oppression during the state of emergency which you had imposed, your political career seemed to have been ruined. During the past few months you have gained political territory again. How did you manage to do that?

Indira Gandhi: Your whole question is wrong already. I do not believe that I had lost any political terrain. And as far as the disclosures are concerned, such as that by the so-called Shah Commission, these were played-up attacks.

SPIEGEL: Are you so sure?

Indira Gandhi: After all, this is bound to be clear to anybody if they cannot produce anything tangible after a whole year. The charges they leveled at me are ridiculous; something like that happens everywhere.

SPIEGEL: What happens everywhere?

Indira Gandhi: Is a head of government not allowed to appoint someone to an office whom he deems suited for it? This is about all in the way of concrete accusations that were leveled at me.

SPIEGEL: But there is no doubt at all that the people were outraged by the excesses during the state of emergency.

Indira Gandhi: The public was carried away by an extremely vicious campaign, also by propaganda staged by the foreign press--last but not least by your journal. Thus, many people believed things which did not exist at all. Now they recognize that a lot simply was not true. As early as a week after the election defeat, people came to see me again.

SPIEGEL: People who had suffered under the excesses of the state of emergency came to see you again?

Indira Gandhi: They were outraged because they had seen through the propaganda. Take sterilization. The propaganda said that everybody would be forcibly sterilized and that neither man nor woman would be normal after sterilization. There was even horrible propaganda saying that we had sterilized pupils--little boys and girls who were just vaccinated against diptheria, tetanus, and pertussis.

And when a cholera epidemic broke out in Patna the people refused to be vaccinated because the malicious whisper propaganda claimed that in reality we would sterilize the people. The ruling Janata Party is now continuing this propaganda.

SPIEGEL: You are now thinking of a comeback. Being such a power-experienced politician, can you tell us when your party will come back into power again?

Indira Gandhi: Why do you call me "power-experienced"? I am simply honest and profoundly convinced of certain ideals and political values; I see the situation clearer than those who are just superficially familiar with it. Besides, most people are only interested in what concerns them directly. Besides, the question concerning my so-called comeback is no question to me.

SPIEGEL: Why not?

Indira Gandhi: By comeback you mean when I will be head of government again. Well, I do not know at all whether I want that. But if you just mean my political activities by comeback, then I can only tell you that I never left politics. I could not leave it even if I felt the overpowering desire to live a quiet life in privacy, for concern about the people simply is part of my life.

SPIEGEL: Early this year you founded a new Congress Party, the so-called "Indira Congress." As early as February that party scored an outstanding election success, particularly in southern India. Yet the leaders of the Janata Party are convinced that you will not come to power again.

Indira Gandhi: Well, you know, what has ever come true of Janata statements? They have no idea.

SPIEGEL: A fight for power is now taking place within the Janata. You once termed that party a "kichri," a menu that has been thrown together...

Indira Gandhi: ...I termed them a "kichri" indeed. A paper that usually is not very friendly toward us commented bitingly: Janata cannot be a kichri because that dish tastes well after all and consists of reasonable ingredients.

SPIEGEL: How do you assess the achievements of the Janata Party so far?

Indira Gandhi: Achievements? Are there any? The country is on its way into anarchy. Prices are skyrocketing, unemployment is increasing, production is decreasing, new local political groups come into being everywhere--who can term that an achievement?

SPIEGEL: Thirty-one years after independence many Indians are still living in misery. Do you think India needs some sort of dictatorship to get ahead? After all, you have been praising the discipline and stability existing during the period of your state of emergency.

Indira Gandhi: I do not like the way in which you are asking questions. Misery is not increasing in India. If we compare ourselves with the period prior to independence, we have achieved near miracles. There is poverty even in rich America.

Millions of people died every year of famine in our country during the British rule; famine does not exist any more. Of oourse, the difference between rich and poor is growing in our country too--but that is no Indian specialty. That is a global phenomenon, for after all the rich countries are always becoming richer and the poor always poorer. I believe though that in India only democracy can be successful because our people are great idealists. Of course, we need discipline, but voluntary and not enforced discipline.

SPIEGEL: Why then did you impose a state of emergency?

Indira Gandhi: That is a long story. We were forced to do it due to a number of developments taking place at that time which were threatening to lead us into anarchy.

SPIEGEL: Was it not mainly your concern over losing power, since a court in Allahabad had sentenced you, jeopardizing your political career?

Indira Gandhi: Only people who always have been against us would ask this. No doubt existed that the Supreme Court would lift that verdict. The only significance of the verdict was the time in which it was declared. The country was threatened by anarchy and terrorism.

SPIEGEL: And you wanted to prevent that with the state of emergency?

Indira Gandhi: Naturally. It was a necessary shock.

SPIEGEL: Not just a means to stay in power?

Indira Gandhi: If I were determined to stay in power, I never would have initiated elections and accepted the result of the elections.

SPIEGEL: Did not you build up your son Sanjay as a successor during the state of emergency?

Indira Gandhi: Neither as a successor nor as anything else.

DESAI TALKS WITH FORMER HOME MINISTER SINGH

BK171103Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 17 Jul 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai, and the former home minister, Mr Charan Singh, held 1 hour of talks at the prime minister's residence today. Later, Mr Charan Singh described the talks as useful.

It may be recalled that some Janata Party leaders have been making fervent efforts to bring about a rapprochement between Mr Desai and Mr Charan Singh. At a meeting of the leaders a few days ago, five central ministers had been asked to meet them separately to achieve reconciliation.

INDIA, FRANCE DISCUSS TRADE, COOPERATION IN DELHI

BK181205Y Delhi ISI in English 0920 GMT 18 Jul 78 BK

[Text] India is keen on the visit of a delegation of French industrialists and businessmen to identify the areas of bilateral cooperation in various fields, reports PTI.

This was conveyed on July 17 to the visiting French secretary of state for foreign affairs, Olivier Stirn, by Commerce Minister Mohan Dharia and Industries Minister George Fernandes.

Dharia and Fernandes agreed with the French minister that there was greater scope for increasing and diversifying Indo-French trade and industrial cooperation.

Although trade between the two countries had increased tremendously in the last few years, it was felt that the present level was not commensurate with the capabilities and potential existing in the two countries.

Indian exports to France accounted for about 0.3 percent of the total French imports while French exports to this country accounted for about 0.7 percent of the total exports of that country.

The total trade turnover (imports and exports) had gone up to rupees 3,010 million during 1967-77 as compared to rupees 828 million in 1972-73.

The Indian ministers pointed out that the protectionist tendencies growing in the developed countries was harming the interests of poor producers and workmen in the developing countries.

If exports from the developing countries did not grow, their economic development would be affected and ultimately these countries would not be in a position to import more from the developed countries, the ministers said.

The export of handloom provided jobs for millions in this country and helped in creating job-oriented programmes in the rural areas. They told the French minister that the EEC Council should consider this issue.

The question of Indo-French joint ventures in third countries was also discussed, and the Indian ministers pointed out that there was special scope for such cooperation in the African markets.

Dharia and Fernandes said that there could be more collaboration with French companies and added that India would welcome French investment.

VAJPAYEE MEETS FRENCH SECRETARY OF STATE STIRN

BK1815492Y Delhi ISI in English 1433 GMT 18 Jul 78 BK

[Text] France's desire to increase its economic, cultural and political contacts with India was conveyed to External Affairs Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee when the French secretary of state, Olivier Stirn, had a 40-minute meeting on 18 July, reports PTI.

During the meeting, Vajpayee and Stirn had a general exchange of views covering the situation in Africa as well as the process of detente in Europe. Vajpayee is understood to have conveyed to Stirn India's firm view that detente should not be confined to Europe alone, but it must cover the entire world. For this process he stressed the need for the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean. Vajpayee hoped that France would support this objective.

During the talks U.S. Bajpai, secretary, and Madhavan, joint secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, were present.

INDIA, FRANCE SIGN TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT

BK181951Y Delhi ISI in English 1455 GMT 18 Jul 78 BK

[Text] An Indo-French agreement for cooperation in science and technology was signed in New Delhi on 18 July. Somarendra Kundu, minister of state for external affairs, signed the agreement on behalf of Government of India and Olivier Stirn, secretary of state for foreign affairs, on behalf of Government of France. The agreement provides for the exchange of scientists and research workers, exchange of scientific and technological information and taking up joint research programmes. India and France have already identified several fields such as solar energy, telecommunications, information systems, oceanography and agricultural sciences for mutual cooperation. The present agreement provides a framework and machinery for developing scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries. A joint Indo-French committee is to be set up to prepare a detailed programme of cooperation and to review the implementation of these programmes. The committee will meet alternately in India and France.

JATTI GIVES SPEECH AT DINNER HONORING LIBYA'S JALLUD

BK181125Y Delhi ISI in English 0855 GMT 18 Jul 78 BK

[Text] Vice President B.D. Jatti held a dinner in honour of His Excellency Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in New Delhi on the night of July 17.

Proposing the toast, Jatti said:

Your Excellency Staff Major Jallud, excellencies, colleagues and friends:

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome this evening His Excellency Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud and other distinguished members of his party. Our two peoples are no strangers and can well be proud of the ever growing ties of friendship and cooperation which singularly characterise the development of very close and amicable relations between the two developing countries. We in India have been greatly impressed with the gigantic efforts being undertaken by the friendly country of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamihiriyah to rebuild the sinews of economy by launching a multifaceted development programme in practically all spheres of economic development. Since the revolution, both our countries have had the same objective of social and economic development for the welfare of all sections, particularly the weaker sections of our populations, and this common approach has brought about an identity of views as members of the nonaligned group.

We have great regard for the consistency and devotion with which the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah has pursued the Arab cause and support for progressive forces. India's own stand on the West Asian issue is well known to you. We reaffirm our principled support for the Arab call for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied Arab lands and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The fight against imperialism and colonialism are of course part of the common stand of the nonaligned countries which seek not only to eliminate the remaining vestiges of these evils but also to persuade the entire international community of the danger to world peace of the immense affluence enjoyed by a few as against the abject poverty and misery of many. This is the basis of our demand for a new international economic order which alone can usher in a just and more equitable relationship within the world community.

Turning toward Africa, our policy has all along been a principled one. We have always believed and continue to believe that the problems of Africans should be left to them for settlement, if necessary, through the good offices of the Organisation of African Unity. We cannot remain unconcerned with grim realities in the countries in southern Africa where the minority has been persistent in perpetuating their rule and denying legitimate rights to the majority. We are firm in our conviction that the right of self-determination and majority rule cannot be denied to the people of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa.

Your Excellency: As I mentioned earlier, we in India are particularly conscious of the courageous efforts by the people of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah under the leadership of His Excellency Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1st September Revolution, to transform the economic orientation of your country through massive developmental projects. In this effort we are genuinely proud that we have been able to contribute our mite by cooperating with your country in your developmental programmes and also by supplying trained and qualified technical personnel. Indeed, I am happy that the recent visit to your country in October 1977 of our minister of industry enabled us to take stock of the different fields of Indo-Libyan cooperation and helped to identify many new avenues of mutually beneficial cooperation. The signing of a memorandum of understanding at the time of the visit of our minister of industry, followed by visits to India of the delegations from Libya, have provided a further opportunity for followup action. We are confident that your present visit will provide the necessary impetus to consolidate our relations in the political, economic, cultural, scientific and technical fields.

Your Excellencies and friends: May I now request you to join me in raising your glasses in a toast for the health and happiness of His Excellency Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the General People's Congress of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, to the progress and prosperity of the great Libyan people and to the continued further strengthening of the existing bonds of friendship between our two countries.

NEPAL

FOREIGN MINISTER ARYAL, DELEGATION VISIT NORTH KOREA

For Korean reportage on the visit of the Nepalese foreign minister and four members of the royal family to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, see the North Korea section of the 19 July and subsequent issues of the Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

ARYAL TO LEAD DELEGATION TO BELGRADE NONALINED MEETING

BK141518Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 14 Jul 78 BK

[Text] Foreign Minister Mr Krishna Raj Aryal will lead the Nepalese delegation to the ministerial-level meeting of the nonalined nations scheduled to be held in Belgrade. The Foreign Ministry said the conference will review the implementation of decisions taken at the previous summit conference and will discuss the agenda for the forthcoming summit conference.

The foreign ministers of the nonalined nations meet every 2 years between summit conferences.

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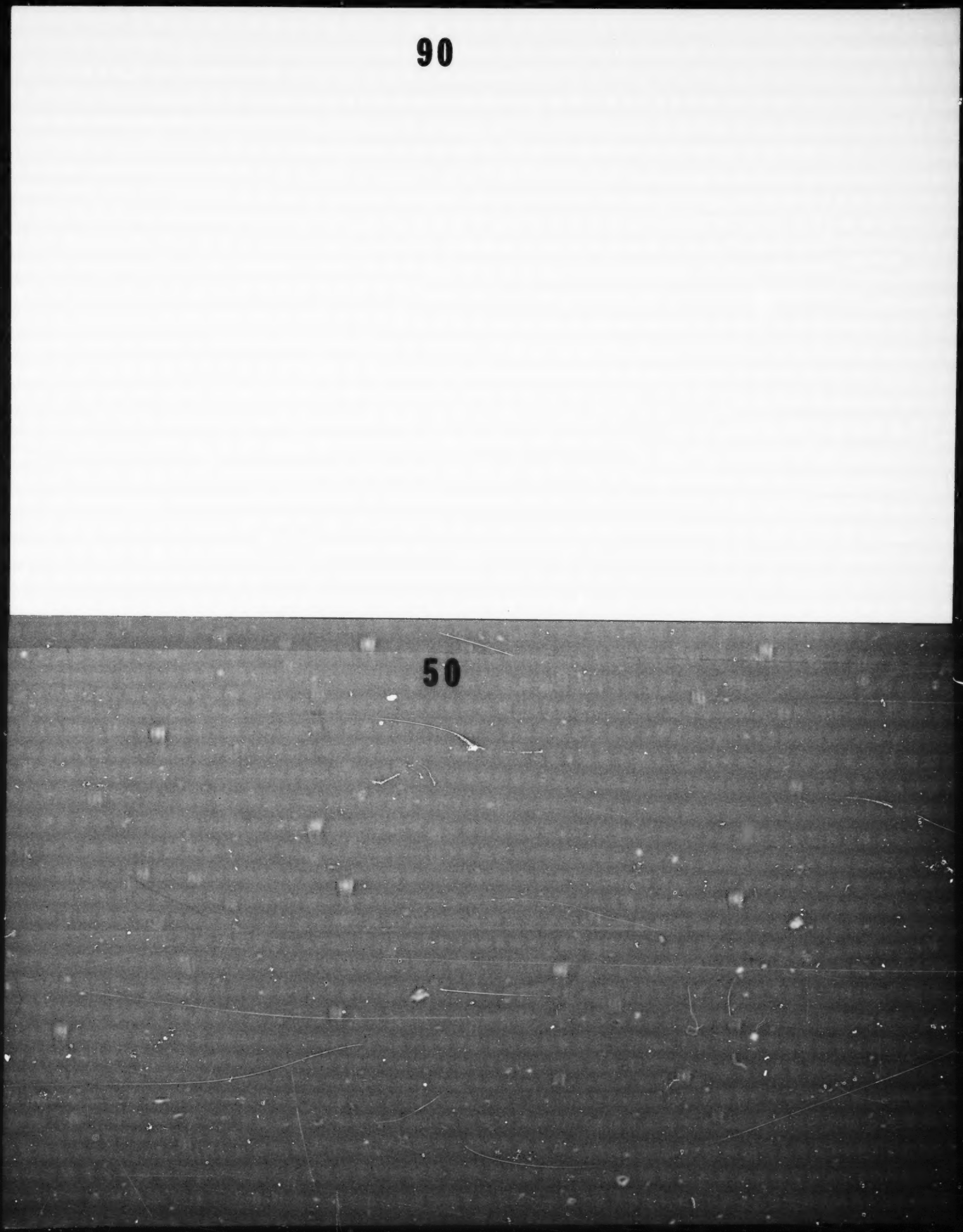
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